

**September is National Preparedness Month-
A Time to Remember. A Time to Prepare.**



This September, our nation will mark the ten year anniversary of 9/11. The Sun City West Citizen Corps Council has committed to participate in National Preparedness Month (NPM) in September, an event founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the U.S. The event, now in its eighth year, is a nationwide, month-long effort hosted by the Ready Campaign and Citizen Corps, encouraging households, businesses, and communities to prepare and plan for emergencies. Local efforts include emergency preparedness workshops offered throughout the month of September. In September, two community-wide presentations will be held:

Wednesday, September 7 from 2:00-3:30 p.m.
RH Johnson Recreation Center Lecture Hall at 19803 RH Johnson Blvd

Tuesday, September 13 from 11:30-1:00
Chez Nous at 14495 RH Johnson Blvd

Community members can address emergency preparedness and their specific needs by attending free emergency preparedness awareness trainings throughout the year in Sun City West by contacting the Sun City West Fire District. Information provided at the workshops address how to be prepared in the event an emergency causes you to be self-reliant for three days without utilities and electricity, water service, access to a supermarket or local services, or maybe even without response from police, fire or rescue. Preparing can start with three important steps:

1. Get an emergency supply kit
2. Make a plan for what to do in an emergency
3. Be informed about emergencies that could happen in your community, and identify sources of information in your community that will be helpful before, during and after an emergency.

Preparedness is a shared responsibility; it takes a whole community. "Whether community members stay in their home or evacuate will depend on the incident but the most important factor either way is that they must be prepared", states Holli Sandeen, Sun City West Fire District community outreach specialist. According to Sandeen,

having a plan, communicating that plan with family members, preparing an emergency supply kit, and preparing our homes for emergency situations is essential.

In Sun City West, community members can fill out a special needs form so that, in an emergency or disaster, emergency rescue officials can help with needed assistance or evacuation. Forms are available throughout the Sun City West community and at the Fire District administration office, as well as the Fire District website at www.scwfire.org. Residents can fill out the form and mail or bring it into the Fire District Administration Office located at 18818 N Spanish Garden Dr., Monday-Thursday from 7:00-5:00, excluding holidays.

Another tool for Emergency Preparedness is CENS. CENS is the Community Emergency Notification System also referred to as "Reverse 911" for emergency notification. The system is designed to rapidly notify an affected area of an emergency by sending a recorded message through the telephone system. CENS uses the 911 database to extract phone numbers determined by the circle or area drawn on the CENS map. CENS launches a prerecorded message to the telephone numbers in the area defined.

Cell and VoIP phones are not part of the 911 database; however, the public can now register Cell or VoIP phones with the CENS system. (CENS notifications are based on the address you provide for your Cell and or VoIP phone.) To register your Cell or VoIP phone visit <http://www.maricoparegion911.org/cens.htm>

Becoming more prepared in case of an emergency is easier than you might think. Whether it's your home, your neighborhood, your place of business, or your school, you can take a few simple steps to prepare yourself and your community. For additional information or to request an "Are You Ready?" presentation on emergency preparedness, contact the Sun City West Fire District at (623) 584-3500. For more information about the Ready Campaign and National Preparedness Month, visit www.Ready.gov.